

Claims

- [c1] 1. A method of forming a reinforced flexible laminate strip having a strip length, comprising:
- providing a continuous strand of wire;
 - bending said continuous strand of wire transversely back and forth across the width of said strip in a plurality of adjacent passes to form a plurality of uniformly spaced interconnected metal reinforcement clips each having a longitudinally running center line, a first leg, a bend and second leg, wherein said second leg of each pass also forms said first leg of the clip formed in the next pass, said adjacent passes of wire having voids located there between, said interconnected metal reinforcement clips extending the strip length; at least one region of the flexible laminate strip defining at least one visible portion through which an at least one exposed portion of the continuous strand of wire passes; and
 - attaching at least one longitudinal carrier member substantially transversely to said adjacent passes of wire thereby maintaining said spacing of said reinforcement clips; said at least one carrier member running along said strip length.

- [c2] 2. The method of forming a reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, further comprising:
filling the voids with a filler material to form flexible laminate strip.
- [c3] 3. The method of forming a reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 2, further comprising:
extruding a sealing element adjacent and connected to said filler layer.
- [c4] 4. The method of forming a reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, further comprising:
bending said uniform strip into a U-shaped profile having two legs.
- [c5] 5. The method of forming a reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, further comprising:
connecting said sealing element to one of said two legs of said U-shaped profile.
- [c6] 6. The method of forming a reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, wherein said step of attaching at least one longitudinal carrier further comprises the step of:
attaching a plurality of longitudinal carriers of the same longitudinal carrier material.
- [c7] 7. The method of forming a reinforced flexible laminate

strip assembly of Claim 1, wherein said step of attaching at least one longitudinal carrier further comprises the step of:

attaching a plurality of longitudinal carriers of different longitudinal carrier materials.

- [c8] 8. The method of forming a reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, wherein the longitudinal carrier material is selected from the group consisting of: elastomeric rubber, thermoplastic, high durometer rubber, fiberglass strand, laminated rubber, woven laminate, non-woven laminate, knitted laminate and combinations thereof.
- [c9] 9. The method of forming a reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, wherein said first and second legs of said clips are substantially parallel along the entire strip length.
- [c10] 10. The method of forming a reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, wherein said first and second legs of said clips form a V-shaped junction at the bend.
- [c11] 11. The method of forming a reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, wherein said continuous strand of wire has a circular cross-sectional shape.
- [c12] 12. The method of forming a reinforced flexible laminate

strip assembly of Claim 1, wherein said continuous strand of wire has a polygonal cross-sectional shape.

[c13] 13. The method of forming a reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, wherein said continuous strand of wire has an oval cross-sectional shape.

[c14] 14. The method of forming a reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:
extruding a cover layer around the strand wire, the at least one carrier member and the filler material.

[c15] 15. The method of forming a reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:
adhering at least one mask layer onto the at least one exposed portion of the continuous strand of wire.

[c16] 16. The method of forming a reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 15, the wherein the at least one mask layer is selected from the group consisting of: elastomeric rubber, thermoplastic, high durometer rubber, fiberglass strand, laminated rubber, woven laminate, non-woven laminate and knitted laminate and combinations thereof.

[c17] 17. The method of forming a reinforced flexible laminate

strip assembly of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

adhering the at least one mask layer to the at least one exposed portion of the continuous strand of wire along the entire length of the laminate strip.

[c18] 18. The method of forming a reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 15, wherein the at least one mask layer is two separate layers spaced apart from one another and respectively adhered to two exposed portions of the continuous strand of wire.

[c19] 19. The method of forming a reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 15, wherein the at least one mask layer is three separate layers spaced from one another and respectively adhered to three exposed portions of the continuous strand of wire.

[c20] 20. The method of forming a reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, wherein the step of bending the continuous strand of wire is bending the continuous strand of wire transversely back and forth across the strip width with the wire being asymmetrical about the longitudinally running center line.